THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No sir. Government is not directly involved in exploration of natural gas because this activity is undertaken by Public Sector Undertakings, Joint Ventures as well as private companies.

(b) to (c) Questions do not arise in view of (a) above.

III—equipped CNG stations in Delhi

1058. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of NCT of Delhi has asked the Central Government recently to provide adequate CNG for buses and other commercial vehicles in the Capital;

(b) if so, whether CNG filling stations in the Capital are illequipped to provide CNG to vehicles;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the further steps Government propose to take to meet adequate supply of CNG for buses and other commercial vehicles in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As on date 72 CNG filling stations are in operation in Delhi. The following steps has been/are being taken to further enhance the supply of CNG in Delhi

- Orders have been placed for higher capacity compressors.
- The total CNG stations would be increased to 87 by September 2001 and to 120 by March 2002.
- The existing 39 daughter stations are proposed to be upgraded to daughter booster stations progressively by December 2001.
- Action has been initiated to lay 23 kms. long gas pipeline connecting Dhaula Kuan with GT Karnal Road.
- In addition 50 retail outlets have been identified for colocating CNG dispensing facility.